Payment to cabin crew staff of IA

†1160. SHRI RS. GAVAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cabin crew staff of Indian Airlines are not paid at the rate of 75 dollars per day while on duty abroad;

(b) if so, whether Indian Airlines would make payment at the **rate of** 75 dollars per day to its cabin crew staff;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The cabin crew are not entitled for payment of Cash/Daily Allowance @ 75 Dollars per day while on duty abroad. The details of the admissible allowances to cabin crew, while on duty abroad, are as under:—

(i) The cabin crew when required to stay at foreign station, while performing flying duties, is entitled to out of pocket expenses at the rate of 20 US Dollards per day and 80% of the applicable Flying Allowance for the out-bound international sector in local currency.

(ii) Cabin crew who is not on flying duty and is required to travel on duty abroad, is entitled for payment of daily allowances/cash allowances as per the applicable rate which ranges from $45 to $100 depending on the place and basic pay. He/she is not entitled for the hourly flying allowance.

Study on airspace

1161. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Airports Authority of India is gearing up its machinery to make the four major metro international airports capable of handling the 500 seater plus super Jumbo Jets;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Airports Authority of India had initiated a study with the assistance of an international aviation consultant to restructure the present airspace to bring in more technological advancement for providing upgraded air services; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL):

(a) and (b) Studies had been carried out for upgrading the infrastructure at Chhattrapati Shivaji International (CSI) Airport, Mumbai and Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport for the introduction of the airbus A-380 aircraft. IGI Airport does not have much airside clearance problems unlike CSI Airport. However, infrastructure have to be modified and upgraded. New < airport projects for Hyderabad and Bangalore, that are in advanced state for commencement will cater to the A-380 aircraft.

(c) and (d) An American company has been engaged for a study on restructuring of Indian airspace and other associated issues as per the terms of the Grant Agreement signed with United States Trade and Development Agency. The report of the first phase of the study is expected to be received in January, 2005.

Courier service by IA

1162. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of CIVILAVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines plans courier service in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when, it is proposed to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Indian Airlines plans to convert five B-737 aircraft into freighter aircraft and operate courier service with Nagpur as a hub. The service is to be launched in thirty one cities in two phases.

(c) It is not possible to indicate a definite time frame for commencing the courier service, at this stage.